



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

HAMBURG has again fallen under the influence of France, and the important commercial question arises, what will become of the quantities of British merchandize forced out there in the feverish haste* to find a market, when a temporary appearance of an opening presented. How much soever the domination of France on the continent, on account of its injustice, may be reprobated, the maritime sovereignty claimed by Britain, is not less unjust, and is equally hostile to the rights of independent nations. The Hamburgers are sordid, meanly servile citizens, and really undeserving of independence; their habits having better fitted them to perform the offices of vassals to whichever power may happen to be uppermost: at one time, overawed by British authority, sacrificing Napper Tandy, who had taken refuge among them; and again terrified by the French, crouching to their new masters: now active in measures to support Bonaparte's continental system, and, in a slight reverse of fortune, talking of independence and liberty, terms, in their mouths, without any definite meaning, just as many in this country affect to talk of the restoration of liberty abroad, who manifest they have no relish or a just sense of its blessings at home. For declamation against foreign tyranny is no symptom of cherishing a real love of liberty and independence. Indeed, the brawlers in the one case prove, by their conduct, that dislike of despotism abroad, is mere affectation, for they servilely crouch at home. The occupation of Hamburg by the French is a strong preliminary step towards the favourite scheme of Bonaparte to exclude the British from the continent, and the treaty to which the present armistice with the Russians and Prussians will probably lead, will, it may be presumed, confirm the exclusion. If the Danes had been conciliated for the former unjust aggressions on them, perhaps Hamburg might have been preserved neutral, but the junction of the British with the suspicious Swedes in their plan, according to the French style, to despoil the Danes of Norway, naturally irritated them, and on the return of Bernstorff, from his unsuccessful negotiation in Britain, revived and strengthened their hostility, and the Danes, by an unwise policy of Britain, sanctioning the spoliation of their territories, according to the law of the strongest, which Britain hypocritically condemns in Bonaparte, but now aids herself, are added to the list of confirmed enemies. The first result, as an appropriate retribution for injustice, is the occupation of Hamburg, and it is by no means improbable, that this unwise and unjust policy may be one most effective measure towards confirming a commercial interdict to a continental trade.

The discussions on the renewal of the Charter of the East India Company proceed, with slow steps, through the House of Commons. Lord Castlereagh carries through the half measures projected by his colleagues in the ministry, by the aid of large majorities, equally numerous in opposing those who wished to limit the renewal of the charter, or the continuance of the exclusive trade to China to ten years, as also in opposition to the friends of the Company, or to the city of London, who tried to incommber the boon of permitting a trade to India, by private adventurers, with the condition, that the returning ships should be forced to bring their cargoes into the port of London. But the all-grasping attempt to add to the patronage of government, may be perceived in the additional resolution moved, by which the trade from London and the out-ports, can only be carried on by a licence from the Board of Control. The system

* This diseased state of the minds of men connected with commerce and manufactures, is the natural consequences of the war, and a subject fully as deserving of public attention, as the imposing progress of the Marquis of Wellington in the Peninsula. Let the supposed national glory be contrasted with the national distress. Of the latter, take a sample, from the following account of Manchester extracted from the news-papers.

"It is a serious fact, that there are now upwards of 1100 houses unoccupied in the town of Manchester, including a rental of considerably more than £13,000. The total premises unoccupied, of every description, in the town, forms a rental of upwards of £27,000."

of licensing, already so injurious in many respects, and which goes far to destroy the independence of the merchant, by making his subserviency to government the measure of his favour at the Board of Trade, is now to be extended to the Board of Control, in the patronage of the private trade to India. In short, the general tendency of measures is to increase the power of the minister, to put the merchant entirely under his power, and to leave only the semblance of liberty, while the substance is lost. The system of licensing is a suitable addition to the other extensive modes of patronage, and bids fair to overwhelm every appearance of liberty in one general wreck, by placing merchants completely at the foot-stool of the minister.

The report of a committee of the House of Commons shows the very great amount of the exports of grain from Ireland into England. To encourage this trade, and to please the landed interest of Ireland, a plan is now in progress, through Parliament, to lay a duty on the importation of foreign grain into Britain, which is to rise according to a scale founded on an average of the last twenty years. The policy of the measure is doubtful. It is dangerous to tamper with a subject with which the sustenance of the people is connected. It may eventually raise prices too high in Ireland, by encouraging an exportation disproportionate to the quantity of grain raised; and in Britain, an error in calculation may be very pernicious in a country which avowedly does not raise a sufficiency for their own sustenance. The average of the last twenty years is very high, for in them are comprehended the four years of scarcity, in 1795, 1800, 1801, and 1812. In our next report, a farther detail of the proceedings in this business may be expected.

A general outcry is making in the large towns in England and Scotland, against the frequency of auctions, by which they allege the regular trade is injured, and articles of inferior quality are passed on the purchasers. It is a vain and delusive business to complain of the effects without examining into the causes. The war occasions the necessity for auctions; as an attempt, however inadequate to force sales, and the pressure of the times compels consumers to put up with articles of a worse quality, as more easily adapted to their slender and decreasing means. The war is the cause of all these evils, and if the people will not raise their views, and petition against the continuance of it, they may as well keep silent as to the effects, and avoid making complaints of the taxes which are its necessary consequence. Until they publicly express disapprobation of the present war system, they are partakers in it, and must submit to the inevitable consequences.

The depreciation of the paper system is farther evinced by the new issue of ten-penny-pieces, which are so sparingly distributed by the bank, and are so much less in size than those formerly issued. As paper sinks, metallic money must either disappear, or be issued at a higher rate, as is now the case.

Exchange on London has through this month averaged from 5 to 6 per cent.; mostly inclining to the lower rate.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From the 20th May, to the 20th June, 1813.

- May 21, Small Dragon-fly (*Libellula puella*), appearing. Naked flowering Azalea (*Azalea Nudiflora*), and Pontic Rosebay (*Rhododendron Ponticum*), flowering.
- 22, Persian Lilac (*Syringa Persica*), flowering.
- 23, Day smelling Catch-fly (*Lychnis diurna*), Silver weed (*Potentilla Anserina*), flowering.
- 26, Saw several Swifts (*Hirundo apus*):
- 27, Ferruginous Rosebay (*Rhododendron ferrugineum*), Beautiful Whortleberry (*Vaccinium amœnum*), Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), flowering.
- 29, Common Avens (*Geum Urbanum*), flowering.